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President may order embassy torn down

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President Reagan, declaring the United States will not be "run out of town" by Soviet spying, said yesterday neither Washington nor Moscow will move into new embassies until he is satisfied the U.S. Embassy is secure.

Mr. Reagan ordered three investigations to curb "further damage to our national security" from the sex-spy scandal in Moscow and the widespread bugging of the old and new U.S. Embassy buildings.

The partly completed, \$190 million facility in Moscow might be torn down unless it can be protected, he said.

Mr. Reagan, in his first public comments on burgeoning security breaches in Moscow, said he was not surprised by the bugging or by Soviet tactics of seducing U.S. Marine guards at the embassy.

But he said Secretary of State George Shultz would go ahead with plans to meet Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in Moscow next week and the embassy issue would be at the top of his agenda.

"I just don't think it's good for us to be run out of town," he said during an appearance in the White House briefing room.

"I think the whole business of espionage is something that we have to recognize takes place, and counter-espionage is employed by everyone.

But at the same time, you don't stop doing business."

Mr. Reagan said the Soviets would not be allowed to move into their new embassy, on a prime hilltop location on Tunlaw Road NW, until Americans occupy a new building in Moscow.

The U.S. facility is scheduled for completion in 1989 but, as one congressman put it, the building is so riddled with eavesdropping devices that it is little more than "an eight-story microphone plugged into the Politburo."

Mr. Reagan announced investigations by:

- Former Defense Secretary Melvin Laird to head an Assessment Review Panel on Moscow's penetration of the embassy by Soviet KGB intelligence agents.

- Anne Armstrong, chairman of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board, to examine the procedures and practices used in American embassies around the world to protect U.S. facilities.

- Mr. Shultz and Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger to work with the National Security Council to make recommendations on selection and supervision of security personnel at the embassy in Moscow, and to make comprehensive recommendations on counterintelligence policies and accountability.

The Pentagon announced yesterday that Marine Sgt. Robert S. Stufflebeam, a former U.S. Embassy security guard suspected of violating rules against socializing with Soviet women, had been ordered released from the brig at Quantico, Va.

Spokesman Robert Sims said a military magistrate found insufficient cause to keep Sgt. Stufflebeam confined. But the Marine is still considered a suspect in the spy scandal, he said.

Two other Marines, Sgt. Clayton Lonetree and Cpl. Arnold Bracy, remain in solitary confinement in Quantico on spying charges after allegedly permitting Soviet agents inside the Moscow embassy.

The Pentagon has said the 28 Marine guards stationed at Moscow would be flown to Frankfurt, West Germany, for questioning by the Naval Investigative Service. Officials say other Marines may have been involved in unauthorized contacts with Soviets.

At the State Department, spokesman Charles Redman said about nine Americans employed by the embassy since October are being brought home because they "couldn't adjust to life" in the Soviet capital and may have violated rules against fraternizing with Soviet citizens.

On Feb. 26, former Secretary of Defense James R. Schlesinger was named by the State Department to find out why construction of the new U.S. Embassy building has bogged down.

"All the facts are not known but it is clear that security implications are widespread and that additional quick action is required to prevent further damage to our national security," Mr. Reagan said.

"I have instructed the secretary of state to make embassy security a major agenda item during his upcoming talks in Moscow."

Mr. Reagan acknowledged that

the advisory board reported to him in 1985 that the embassy in Moscow was vulnerable and advised him to get rid of the Soviet personnel working there. He said the administration immediately started to withdraw the Soviets in stages.

Mr. Reagan rejected a suggestion from former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and others that Mr. Shultz cancel his visit to Moscow over the espionage scandal.

National Security Adviser Frank Carlucci said the president decided it was worthwhile to go ahead with the Shultz-Shevardnadze meeting because the issues between the United States and the Soviet Union are so important.

But he said security conditions for Mr. Shultz' stay in Moscow are "less than ideal." Mr. Shultz will have secure rooms within the embassy, secure word processors and secure communications to the United States.

Mr. Shultz' communications facility will be situated in a trailer to be flown in from the United States, Mr. Carlucci told reporters.

Mr. Carlucci denied that it had taken a spy scandal at the embassy to get the president moving on security. "The administration has been aware of the penetration problem for some time," he said.

White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said the Laird panel and the Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board would cover similar ground but that the former was for the State Department and the advisory board probe for Mr. Reagan.